S/N 10/728,471 <u>PATENT</u>

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dwayne E. EBERSOLE Examiner: K.DINH

Serial No.: 10/728,471 Group Art Unit: 2151

Filed: DECEMBER 5, 2003 Docket No.: TN337C

Customer No.: 27276

Title: OPTIMIZING VIRTUAL INTERFACE ARCHITECTURE (VIA) ON

MULTIPROCESSOR SERVERS AND PHYSICALLY INDEPENDENT

CONSOLIDATED NICS

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Examiner's official paper mailed January 8, 2008. Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. The Examiner asserted a Combination/Subcombination restriction requirement for three allegedly different groups of claims in an action filed September 9, 2007. The Applicants responded by respectfully maintaining, for the reasons stated in their response dated October 24, 2007, that the Election/Restriction requirement was improper. The Applicant formally elected with traverse the Group II set of claims as recited within Claim 6-9, and the Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn. The Examiner asserts in the Office Action that the Restriction Requirement is FINAL but the Examiner asserts NO REJECTION of any kind. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that elected claims 6-9 be passed for allowance without delay.